

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated December 29, 2006 and Advisory Action dated April 18, 2007, have been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claim 1 is hereby amended; claims 20 and 21 are hereby withdrawn. Accordingly, claims 1-19 and 22-23 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 12, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,129,804 (to Gaynes et al.)(hereinafter "Gaynes") in view of Japanese Laid Open Patent Application Publication No. 2001-356353 (to Satoshi)(hereinafter "Satoshi"). Claims 1, 12 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0062787 A1 (to Hashizume et al.)(hereinafter "Hashizume"), or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Hashizume in view of Satoshi. Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gaynes or Hashizume, with or without Satoshi, and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0043344 A1 (to Watanabe et al.)(hereinafter "Watanabe") and U.S. Patent No. 5,961,777 (to Kakinuma)(hereinafter "Kakinuma"). Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Gaynes or Hashizume and further in view of Satoshi.

The rejection of claims 1-19 and 22-23 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-19 and 22-23 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "at least one substrate bonding station for bonding a first substrate having a sealant thereon and a second substrate having a liquid crystal thereon, wherein the substrate bonding station includes first and second sides" and

“a sealing member wherein the sealing member thickness is set according to a pressure applied to the first and second glass substrates.” None of the cited references including, Gaynes, Hashizume, Watanabe, Kakinuma or Satoshi, singly or in any combination, teach or suggest at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-19 and 22-23 are allowable over the cited art.

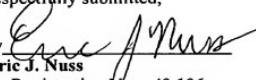
Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: 24 April 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By   
Eric J. Nuss

Registration No.: 40,106  
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP  
1900 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202) 496-7500  
Attorneys for Applicant